

# Malawi



Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. We design, rigorously evaluate, and refine these solutions and their applications together with decisionmakers to ensure that the evidence created is used to improve opportunities for the world's poor. In the ten years since IPA was founded, we have worked with over 250 leading academics to manage over 400 evaluations in 51 countries. Future growth will be concentrated in focus countries, such as Malawi, where we have local and international staff, established relationships with government, NGOs, and the private sector, and deep knowledge of local issues.

## More Evidence

In Malawi, we have continued our global tradition of rigorous, applicable research by building foundational research capacity and conducting evaluations in areas of pressing national concern. Examples of our research below offer promising insights into everyday issues that affect the lives of the Malawian poor.

### AGRICULTURE

**Peer training in conservation farming and in-kind rewards for good performance help most in adoption of agricultural productivity-enhancing technologies.** This study explored the effects of new ways of sharing conservation farming knowledge and nutrient management practices. We learned that when trained, volunteer farmers can effectively share

conservation farming and nutrient management techniques with others in their villages. These volunteers were most effective in influencing adoption of technologies when they farmed similarly sized fields and had used similar inputs as those they were training, and we also offered moderate, in-kind rewards for good performance.

### FINANCE

**Can registering a small-to-medium enterprise (SME) help improve their performance?** The government of Malawi is working to increase small business registration rates by streamlining their registration process. The government wants to understand whether or not business registration improves enterprise performance. In partnership with the government, we

will assess the impacts of formalizing these businesses which are currently operating in the informal sector. Study results have already been influential in informing the Business Registration Bill, which has now been approved by parliament into an Act. Looking forward, we expect to have positive impacts on government revenue streams as well as the survival and growth of small and medium enterprises.

### IPA MALAWI

Since 2010

### FOCUS SECTORS

Agriculture  
Education  
Health  
Finance

### RESEARCH PROJECTS

12 Completed, 7 in Progress

### KEY PARTNERS

Department of Registrar General, City and District Councils, Malawi Microfinance Network, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Water, New Building Society, Opportunity Bank of Malawi, University of Malawi, World Bank

### KEY RESEARCHERS

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## Malawi Country Brief

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